Capacity Building Workshop

Advancing Inclusion in International Higher Education in ASEAN

15 November – 17 December 2021

OVERVIEW

Co-organised by

SHARE
EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT TO
HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE ASEAN REGION

ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION

The SHARE Programme is funded by the European Union.

EUROPEAN UNION

asean

BACKGROUND	Why are we organising this workshop series? This project is part of the SHARE Programme and ASEF's efforts to promote the embedding of inclusion in the international activities of ASEAN universities.

Advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in international activities of universities is a shared mission of the [European Union Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (SHARE) Programme](#) and the [Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).](#)

The Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (SHARE) Programme is the European Union's flagship higher education programme with ASEAN. The SHARE Consortium is comprised of the British Council, the DAAD, ENQA, and Nuffic. The SHARE Extension will see the programme continue its support of the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN stakeholders to enable greater harmonisation and internationalisation of ASEAN higher education.

The SHARE Programme is fully committed to the implementation of the third ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021 – 2025 for the duration of its extension. Consequently, the SHARE Consortium will bring to bear its collective expertise and experience across the full scope and dimensions of international education in line with the further development of an ASEAN Higher Education Space and an ASEAN branded scholarship scheme, in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and regional stakeholders. A central aim of the SHARE Programme Extension is to catalyse the transfer of ownership of programme outcomes to ASEAN entities and nominated organisations to be embedded within sustainable ASEAN-led structures and processes.

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) has been promoting diversity & inclusion since its inception, in the last 25 years. ASEF regards this project as a spin-off activity of the recent [8th ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education (ARC8)](#) that took place on 10 September 2021. ARC8 is a prime example for dialogue and collaboration between Asia-Europe on the issue of inclusion. One of the main outputs of this conference was the [ARC8 Outlook Report 2030: Inclusive and Diverse Higher Education in Asia and Europe,](#) which provided a set of recommendations to policymakers, and a set of recommendations to higher education leaders to improve equity in their international activities. This workshop series serves as a forum of practitioners to further explore the usefulness and feasibility of these recommendations and design actions to implement them at their home institutions.

KEY OBEJCTIVES	What do we want to achieve? In short: Build an ASEAN community of practice by exchanging knowledge, sharing good practices, and taking action.

The four key objectives of this workshop are:

- **Increase knowledge** on the concept of inclusion in higher education internationalisation and tools to improve it
- **Facilitate exchange of good practices** among universities in ASEAN and the European Union
- **Inspire participants to take action** in their home institutions
- **Build a network of practitioners** sharing a joint mission to keep improving equity in international higher education

TOPIC OF THE WORKSHOP SERIES	What will be discussed during this 5-week long workshop series? Advancing inclusion in international activities of ASEAN higher education institutions.

If there has been one unifying theme in the higher education contexts over the past 50 years, it is that of massification. However, while this massification of higher education has resulted in provision of access to a university-level education for millions more than would have pursued further study in previous generations, **the question of inclusion, alongside that of access, has persisted for many groups within Asian and European societies.**

Massification is, in effect, a double-edged sword and when addressed within what has traditionally been a more exclusive context of higher education and internationalisation, the question of inclusion becomes all the more subjective. While the number of students who do study abroad has more than doubled over the past 20 years (OECD, 2020) the prevailing **norm of exclusivity rather than inclusivity of such an 'internationalised university experience' is evident.**

The disruption and fragmentation that **the COVID-19 pandemic** has wrought on education systems globally has raised **renewed questions of access and inclusion in international education,** particularly as new digital modalities of delivery come to the fore and as new divides emerge. As societies in Asia and Europe begin to emerge from the grip of the pandemic, **the call to make international higher education activities more inclusive**, and thus beneficial and impactful for all - rather than only for a minority of students -, **becomes ever more forceful**.

The ten member states comprising the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have become a nexus of the most cohesive regional policy development on internationalisation and inclusion in Asia, in particular since the proclamation of the ASEAN Community by ASEAN Leaders at their 27th Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 22 November 2015. Despite its motto 'One Vision, One Identity, One Community', ASEAN is one of the most culturally diverse regions in the world with a staggering array of different ethnic groups, each with their own distinct culture,
language and traditions. There is a growing need for awareness of the importance of inclusion to the regional education agenda in ASEAN.

On 2 November 2019, the '**Bangkok Declaration on Advancing Partnership in Education for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in ASEAN'** was adopted by ASEAN Heads of State at the 35th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, Thailand. The Declaration emphasised *"the crucial role of inclusive, equitable and quality education as well as the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all in realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'* and stressed "the strategic value of partnership by bringing together national governments, international communities, civil societies, the private sectors and other actors in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Professional associations such as the European Association for International Education (EAIE) and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) have already been supporting the **professionalisation of educators and practitioners also in the area of inclusion**. However, these activities can be further enhanced through the creation of communities of practice in specific service areas.

There is indeed work to be done across the wider Asian region when it comes to greater equity, diversity and inclusion within international mobility of people and knowledge, but it is evident that there is a renewed interest and appreciation of its importance.

In line with the above, the workshop series will focus on improving inclusion in international activities at universities. University managers, international officers and academics are invited to apply in case they do work in any of the following dimensions, and want to further improve inclusivity of these activities:

- physical mobility or virtual exchange programmes
- quality assurance, recognition of qualifications, credits and credentials
- digital transformation of internationalisation activities
- internationalisation support services
- programme structure, curriculum development in international education

The workshop will help participants come up with tailored action plans to address their inclusion challenges.

DATE AND TIME   When does it take place and how long is it?
The workshop series is 5-week long, online.

Dates: between 15 November – 17 December 2021
Mode of participation: online

TARGET GROUP

Who should apply to participate?
This Workshop series is designed for university managers, international officers and academics who spearhead internationalisation initiatives in their institutions.

We envision about 30 participants **from ASEAN countries who meet the following criteria** joining the project**:**

- Managers, international officers or academics in tertiary higher education institutions in charge of internationalisation initiatives
- Working at an **ASEAN based university**
- Excellent command of English (written and verbal)

Selected participants will have to commit to allocate approximately 3 hours weekly to prepare and participate at the live online workshop sessions. They will be also required to develop and submit an individual action plan at the end of the programme that will be published. This will be the condition of earning a certificate of completion.

Participants will be selected by an Open Call for Application. The screening process will ensure a non-discriminative approach assuring a balanced geographic representation, gender balance and fair access to the opportunity for all. When assessing the applications, **Organisers will look for applicants who meet the eligibility criteria, express strong motivation, and are committed to transform the knowledge and skills gained during the workshops into action.**

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

What are the programme elements of the workshop series?
It is a 5-week long virtual learning and networking project with collaborative and self-paced learning elements.

The workshop series will take place **entirely online,** with the use of online collaboration tools and platforms. It is a **5-week long engagement with approximately 3 hours commitment per week.** There will be:

- **Synchronous learning elements | Live online sessions each week**
  Participants will meet every week and jointly attend a 2-hour long live online group session, led by experts, featuring speakers from leading universities and NGOs, sharing good practices and examples on equitable internationalisation in higher education. Participants will attend these 2-hour long exchange sessions every week.

- **Asynchronous learning elements | On demand**
  The learning journey includes self-paced study elements such as readings, videos, case studies, with collaborative learning elements such as live online presentations, group exercises, tailored to the challenges that participants define to work on.

There will be 5 live online sessions throughout the 5-week long programme:

Week 1 | Target Group and Value Proposition
Week 2 | Activities and Resources
Week 3 | Stakeholders
Week 4 | Measuring Outcomes and Impact
Week 5 | Summary and presentation of action plans

OUTCOMES

What do participants get out of the workshop series?
In short: knowledge, ideas and networks to kick-start their own project at their institutions.

Participants will complete the programme with a key combination of knowledge, practical solutions and new networks which can advance their work in driving inclusion at their institutions. Participants will walk away with:

- **Enhanced understanding of advancing inclusion in international activities**
  The project will help participants to understand the added value of inclusion in higher education internationalisation; expand knowledge on different strategies related to advancing equity and learn about good practices in from universities in Asia and Europe.

- **Personal network in Asia and Europe**
  The workshop will provide diverse opportunities for interaction and cooperation for 30 participants from different countries across ASEAN. Therefore, we fully expect new partnerships to emerge and a sustainable Community of Practice.

- **Tailored action plan to get ahead of change**
  Participants will develop their own action plans, which they can implement in their home institution to promote inclusion in international activities.

EXPECTED IMPACT

In the long term, the impact is expected to realise on four levels.

- Individual level: Inspire **higher education managers** to take the lead on equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives and engage their peers
- University level: Strengthen **universities'** capacity to advance inclusive internationalisation strategies and practices in their organisation
- Policy level: Inform the **education policy makers** on ASEAN universities' roles and strategies in advancing equity, diversity and inclusion in international HE
- International level: Create an **ASEAN Community of Practice network** to support exchange on innovation and find opportunities for collaboration

CO-ORGANISERS

Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (SHARE) Programme

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For more information, please visit www.share-asean.eu

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). ASEF promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy, public health and media. The work of ASEF's Education Department (ASEFEdu) focuses on the themes digitalization & inclusion, and hence, contributes with its projects to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially to Goal4: *ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all*.

For more information, please visit www.ASEF.org.